

PG&E PN-003364 Big Bend Fire Rebuild Underground Line SU
Feather River Ranger District
Plumas National Forest

The Forest Service proposes to authorize the post-fire utilities restoration project described below through issuance of a modification of the existing special use permit (SUP).

PG&E requests that the right-of-way and facilities included in this application be assigned to PG&E's existing SUP for Plumas National Forest and governed by that authorization's operation and maintenance plan.

PG&E proposes to underground approximately 0.51 miles of the electric distribution facilities on the Big Bend 1102 Line. The power line is located along Milsap Bar Road (Butte County). The PG&E electric facilities will consist of underground conduit for electric distribution lines, associated boxes and transformers, and protection features for above ground facilities. The project site is located within the Plumas National Forest.

To underground these facilities, PG&E will use a combination of plowing, trenching and boring along Milsap Bar Rd. PG&E will bore underneath all waterway, culverts, and drainages that intersect with the path; no open trenching or replacement will take place at culvert locations. The standard trench depth will be at least 42 inches below ground and average 24 inches in width. PG&E estimates the maximum depth of the trench will be approximately 110 inches below ground. A total of 2,800 feet of excavation is expected. The underground pipe will be approximately 3 to 6 inches in diameter. Excavation will be backfilled with natural backfill material. PG&E will also be installing new conduit boxes within spot pullout locations, which are already previously disturbed. Standard ground clearance of the conduit boxes is approximately five feet.

All work areas will be accessed from Milsap Bar Road or established driveways or disturbed areas along Milsap Bar Road. Specific staging areas are outside of USFS property.

Crews consist of approximately five to seven persons working up to 10 hours a day, seven days a week. One crew will be supporting this project. The proposed project is anticipated to begin in late 2021/early 2022 and duration is expected to take approximately six weeks.

A Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan will be implemented during the project to help prevent water quality impacts.

The project was entered into PALS and appeared on the Schedule Of Proposed Actions (SOPA) on November 5, 2021.

The project is anticipated to have a decision in December, 2021 and implementation would follow as weather conditions allow. Please provide any comments to Erika Brenzovich, erika.brenzovich@usda.gov or Clay Davis, clay.davis@usda.gov